



Van Nuys Woman's Club
14836 Sylvan Street
Van Nuys, California 91411

May 1912



May 1992

VAN NUYS WOMAN'S CLUB

80 Years of History

1912-1992

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Silver Anniversary Brochure

INTRODUCTION

For the 40th anniversary of the Van Nuys Woman's Club Mrs. Vivian Ramsay and Mrs. Milo Thompson compiled a history which was presented to Mrs. Rainey, the anniversary year President.

For our 80th, La Verne Butts, Vanguard Editor and Historian, collaborated with the current President, Kay Robbins, to bring our history up to date. (1992).

PAST PRESIDENTS

* Mrs. Lucy Trotter Smead	1912-1914
* Mrs. Elizabeth Houghton	1914-1916
* Mrs. Sara Kellogg	1916-1918
* Mrs. Carl Barkla	1918-1920
* Mrs. Phoebe Hubbel	1920-1922
* Mrs. Charles H. Steere	1922-1924
* Mrs. B. R. Holloway	1924-1926
* Mrs. E. A. Moehn	1926-1928
* Mrs. W. J. Murray	1928-1929
* Mrs. Charles I. Thacker	1929-1931
* Mrs. Belle Bever	1931-1933
* Mrs. J. W. Praiswater	1933-1935
* Mrs. W. J. Murray	1935-1936
* Mrs. L. A. Mountford	1936-1938
* Mrs. Portia Young Campbell	1938-1940
* Mrs. James Wilbray	1940-1942
* Mrs. H. S. Brown	1942-1944
* Mrs. Garnet Zarn Tingle	1944-1946
* Mrs. Ross Rook	1946-1947
* Mrs. Milo Thompson	1947-1948
* Mrs. Harold Orner	1948-1950
Mrs. Lloyd G. Rainey	1950-1952
* Mrs. Raymond Post	1952-1953
* Mrs. George O. Chapman	1953-1955
* Mrs. Howell C. McDaniel	1955-1957
Mrs. J. Howard Wilson	1957-1958
* Mrs. George L. Baker	1958-1959
Mrs. James L. Neel	1959-1961
* Mrs. Lewis M. Reed	1961-1963
Mrs. Robert L. Ellis	1963-1965
* Mrs. Andrew Hamilton	1965-1967
* Mrs. John Osborn	1967-1969
Mrs. David Moore	1969-1970
Mrs. Edward Traurig	1970-1973
Mrs. Robert Ellis	1973-1975
Mrs. James L. Neel	1975-1979
* Mrs. George O. Chapman	1979-1980
Mrs. James E. O'Leary	1980-1983
Mrs. George R. Lewis	1983-1985
Mrs. Clarence Funk	1985-1987
Mrs. James L. Neel	1987-1990
Mrs. Helen Flannagan	1990-1991
MRS CATHERINE ROBBINS	1991-1993
*Deceased MRS. NEVA HINES	1993-

VAN NUYS WOMAN'S CLUB

HISTORICAL TREASURES

BOX I

Minute Books #1 May 1. 1912 at the home of Mrs. Hathaways
#1a April 15, 1914 Handwritten Bylaws
#2 Jan.31, 1917 at the home of Miss Ella Goodhue
#3 April 24-Jan. '29

Jan 46- Nov 50
Dec 50-May 57
Jul 63-Dec71
71-Feb 75
Apr 76-June 80
Jul 80-Dec 82
Dec 82-Mar 85.

July 87- Dec. '89
Jan 80-Nov. '91

Guest Books 26-34, 35-55; 36-68

BOX II

Garden Section #1 73-75
#4 82-84
#5 84-87

<u>Receipt Books</u>	<u>Financial Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurers Report</u>
	large ledger	Copies receipts
28-32	23-25	52-53
32-36	26-29	52-55
36-42	36-41	85-87
	47-49	87-Jan 90
	50-52	
	53-54	
	52-55	
	76-88 (separate)	

Juniors

Minute Books Jan 27-32
Oct 32

Financial 1-17-27 to 6-22-³/₂₃

Special Scrapbooks

1926
1926-27
1958-59 (Red)

HISTORICAL TREASURERS

BOX III

Special Yearbooks with photos 1914-1938
1938-1971

Award Books --2 volumes

District Reports 84-85-86- - -89-90

Scrapbooks--(Some large in separate package)
(Some in box II)

1926 II
26-27 II, 27-28 L
29-30 Sr and JR L
33-34 L
34-35 , 41-42 L
44-64 L
45-58
1949
58-59 contains document II
62-63 L
77-80 L

Rentals 54-56
56-57
57-61

Small box-Federal Savings 83-85

Original File box-- 1926

BOX IV

Yearbooks 1912-1991 (13 missing)

BOX IV

Almost complete set
of Yearbooks
Financial Statements
1-87 to 11-91
Corresp. Sec. 80-83
Garden Sec. Bank records,
87-90
Yearly Reports 63-64
65-66

AWARDS
ORIGINAL 1912-52
HISTORY 1912-92

TROPHIES

1930-31 Press Award to the Junior Club

1932-33 Press Award to the Junior Club

Mrs. Howard Sherwood Trophy
awarded to
Chorus of the Van Nuys Woman's Club
March 21, 1935

L.A. District Choral Concert
2nd Prize, April 1933
Presented by Mrs. and Mr. Thorton Kenney

THE VAN NUYS WOMAN'S CLUB

Organized April 3, 1912

Incorporated October 3, 1916

FOREWORD

Sometimes, in our preoccupation with today's problems and tomorrow's plans, we tend to lose sight of the events of yesterday which provide the background for a deeper understanding and appreciation of our heritage.

This is as true in the broad scope of our American background as in the narrower frame of our club inheritance. It is fitting, therefore, on this, the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Van Nuys Woman's Club, that as we cast a backward glance at our beginnings and our development through the years, we pay tribute to that handful of intelligent and courageous women who banded together to form a club for the promotion of their own cultural improvement and the general welfare of the community.

To them this historical record is gratefully dedicated.

April 3, 1952.

Mrs. Walker E. Rumsey

Mrs. Milo W. Thompson

HISTORIANS
1950—1952

Guest Book - 1926 to 1936.

Book donated by Sarah Kellogg October
Twenty-Five Years, California Federation

One Copy of Cook
ways and means projects

Blue Prints of Caretaker

Miscellaneous extra Yearbooks.

Junior Auxiliary Records

Minute Books - January 17, 1927

October 11, 1927

Treasurer's Book - January 17, 1927

OF RECORDS AT CLUBHOUSE

13, 1912, to January 6, 1917

January 31, 1917, to March 6, 1924

1924, to June 11, 1929

1929, to February 24, 1932

December 12, 1934

June 2, 1937

3, 1940

January 13, 1943

January 9, 1946

November, 1950

from 1932 to 1943

September 1926

May 1930

ation and By-Laws and various amendments.

VAN NUYS WOMAN'S CLUB

Organization and Property

On February 22, 1911, the town of Van Nuys was little more than a year later -- on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 3, 1912, sixteen women of the community met at the home of Mrs. H. S. Trotter for the purpose of organizing a woman's club. Mrs. Trotter was chosen to serve as temporary chairman and Mrs. W. A. Bowen as secretary.

The group had been meeting as "The Mission Study Class of Van Nuys," but wanted to broaden the scope of their activities. The purpose of the new organization, to be known as "The Van Nuys Woman's Club," was defined as: "the promotion of mutual information of its members along social, literary and artistic lines."

Dues for the first year were set at \$1.00, with business meetings scheduled for alternate Wednesday afternoons at 3 o'clock, following a half-hour of social intercourse.

The records do not contain a roster of the sixteen present at the organization meeting, but the minutes of the first few meetings make mention of twenty women who served on committees, officers, or as hostesses. As they were apparently very active in forming the new club, their names are listed:

Mrs. H. S. Trotter	Mrs. W. A. Bower
Mrs. W. E. Bechtelheimer	Mrs. T. E. Ivie
Mrs. J. L. Baker	Mrs. E. E. Patton
Mrs. Wm. Kendall	Mrs. D. M. Gibson
Mrs. Martha Calhoun	Mrs. Ida Bailey
Mrs. W. A. Connolly	Mrs. Annie M. Sanford
Mrs. G. W. Dickey	Mrs. H. S. Hathaway
Mrs. H. T. Ellington	Mrs. J. O'Toole
Mrs. George Drake	Mrs. C. W. Cole
Mrs. S. M. LaSalle	Mrs. Wm. Young

At the first regular meeting, held at the home of Mrs. Bechtelheimer, April 17, 1912, the Constitution and By-Laws were presented by Mrs. Ivie, chairman of the committee, and adopted by the membership.

The original Constitution and By-Laws were as follows:

CONSTITUTION

Article I.

Name: The name of this club shall be the Van Nuys Woman's Club.

Article II.

Object: The object of this club shall be the promotion of the mutual improvement of its members along social, civic and literary lines.

Article III.

Members: Section 1. All women of Van Nuys and vicinity shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Names of applicants for membership shall be proposed in writing by a member and endorsed by two other members who are personally acquainted with the applicant.

Sec. 3. Honorary members shall be proposed by the Board of Directors, and voted upon by the club at the annual meeting. They shall pay no dues and shall not vote or hold office.

Article IV.

Officers: Section 1. The officers of this club shall be the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor.

Sec. 2. These officers with four others shall constitute a Board of Directors.

Article V.

Amendments: This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the annual meeting, provided such amendment shall have been presented at a previous meeting.

BY-LAWS

Article I.

Membership: Section 1. A candidate shall become a member of the club on election by the Board of Directors. Three negative votes shall reject.

Sec. 2. Members elected are required to qualify within one month, by signing the Constitution and By-Laws, and paying the annual dues.

Sec. 3. All resignations shall be made in writing, addressed to the Secretary.

Sec. 4. No member of the club shall present more than two names for membership, and shall not endorse more than three during the year.

Sec. 5. Former members shall be reinstated by a vote of the Board of Directors, and upon payment of the annual dues.

Sec. 6. Non-resident guests accompanying a member will be admitted free. Resident guests will be admitted twice upon payment of ten cents.

Article II.

Dues: All dues shall be one dollar a year, payable in advance, at the annual meeting.

Article III.

Duties of Officers: Section 1. The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings, appoint committees, fill vacancies in office, sign all official papers, and have a general supervision over the affairs of the club. The Vice-President shall be a substitute in case of the absence of the President.

Sec. 2. The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of each meeting of the club, send out notices and notify all committees of their appointment. The Corresponding Secretary shall maintain such correspondence with individuals and societies as the club may direct, keep a record of the same and note all letters written.

Sec. 3. The Treasurer shall receive and pay out all moneys on the written order of the President, signed by the Secretary, give receipts for the money received and notify all delinquents.

Sec. 4. The Board of Directors shall have power to transact all necessary business that may arise between meetings.

Article IV.

Time of Meeting: Section 1. The time of meeting shall be at two-thirty (2:30) p.m. every alternate Wednesday, beginning April 3rd, Nineteen Hundred Twelve.

Sec. 2. The Annual Meeting shall be the second meeting in April.

Article V.

Committees: Section 1. The following standing committees shall be appointed by the chair: Program, House and Membership, Civic, Music, Parliamentary Drill, Home Economics, and Philanthropy.

Sec. 2. The Program Committee shall provide the program for the regular club meetings.

Sec. 3. The House Committee shall provide a place of meeting and shall assist the hostess.

Sec. 4. Other committees shall be appointed as the club shall deem expedient.

Sec. 5. A Nominating Committee, composed of three members, shall be appointed by the President at the second meeting in March and shall propose the

names of officers for the club at the Annual Meeting. Further nominations may be made from the floor.

Sec. 6. Elections shall be made by ballot.

Article VI.

Quorum: Seven members shall constitute a quorum, provided one by an officer.

Article VII.

Rules of Order: In all meetings of the club, Robert's Rules of Order shall be authority in Parliamentary Law.

Article VIII.

Amendments: The By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting by two-thirds vote of the members present, provided the amendments shall have been presented at a previous meeting.

After the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted, a nominating committee, consisting of Mmes. Baker, Patton and Gibson, was appointed to select nominees for permanent officers, and at the second regular meeting, May 1, 1912, the following women were elected, by unanimous vote of the nineteen members present, to head the club during its first year:--Mmes. H. S. Trotter, president; Martha Calhoun, vice-president; W. A. Bowen, recording secretary; T. E. Ivie, corresponding secretary, and Ida Bailey, treasurer. Appointed to the board of directors by the president were Mmes. W. E. Bechtelheimer, W. A. Connelly, E. E. Patton and Fannie M. Sanford

The first record of new members admitted to the group is contained in the minutes of the June 12, 1912, meeting, at which time Mrs. W. J. Petit and Mrs. A. M. Harrison were admitted to membership. Before the end of the first club year, however, the roster of members had increased to fifty-one.

These women knew the value of association and believed in the motto of the federated clubs -- "Strength united is stronger." One of their first acts was to apply for membership in the California Federation of Women's Clubs, and the Los Angeles District, which application was granted in July, 1912. Steps to affiliate with the General Federation were completed in February, 1924, and in 1931 the club affiliated with the County.

During the early years, the club usually met at the homes of various members, but on special occasions the Bank Building Hall, the Masonic Hall, the Grammar School Auditorium and even the piano and organ factory recital room served as meeting places. The first Reciprocity Day, for example, was held in the Masonic Hall February 3, 1915.

It was inevitable, however, that such arrangements would not satisfy the club members for long and as early as March, 1913, the president, Mrs. Trotter, suggested to the members that they consider establishing a permanent club "home." A committee was appointed to investigate and report on possible location, cost of lots, building, etc. Minutes of the November 3, 1913, meeting record that Mr. H. J. Whitley had promised to donate a lot on Sherman Way for a building site, and that Mrs. Whitley would give \$100 toward the building fund. The offer was not accepted, however, and the project remained quiescent for several years.

Finally, on August 30, 1916, the Building Committee met at the home of Mrs. Ida Bailey who offered to give the club a lot on Virginia Street (now Sylvan Street), with an option to buy the adjoining lot for \$550. At the same time, Mrs. S. O. Houghton offered to lend the club \$3000 at 6% interest to build the clubhouse.

Mrs. Fred N. Kellogg, who was president at the time, called a special meeting of the board of directors on September 5, 1916, and the board decided to recommend to the membership that both Mrs. Bailey's and Mrs. Houghton's offers be accepted. In appreciation of her contribution, Mrs. Bailey was made a life member.

In order to buy and own property, it was necessary for the club to form a non-profit corporation, and on October 2, 1916, at a special meeting held at Van Nuys High School, nine directors were elected and instructed to proceed with the incorporation at once.

The nine elected directors were: Mmes. Fred Kellogg, G. Arthur Bolander, S. Bailey, W. F. Keller, H. S. Trotter, Arthur E. Streeter, Lewis E. Bliss, Houghton, Jr., and Estella L. Staley. Articles of Incorporation were duly

prepared and filed and the Van Nuys Woman's Club received its charter as a non-stock, non-profit corporation as of October 3, 1916.

Following is a copy of the Articles of Incorporation:

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Know all men by these presents:--That we, the undersigned, a majority of whom are citizens of the State of California, have this day voluntarily associated ourselves together for the purpose of incorporation under the laws of the State of California, an association, and in pursuance of said purpose we do hereby adopt these articles of incorporation, and

We do hereby certify:--

First: That the name of this corporation shall be "The Van Nuys Woman's Club."

Second: That the purposes for which it is formed are for advancement in all lines of general culture, to do works of charity, to aid in, and take such steps as shall promote civic welfare and improvement; to acquire, own, mortgage and sell such real estate as shall be necessary for the objects and purposes of this corporation; to do any and all things provided for, or which may be provided for in its By-Laws and Constitution and which might be done by a non-stock, non-profit, social corporation.

Third: That the place where the principal place of business of the corporation is to be, and its principal business transacted is in the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

Fourth: That the term for which said corporation is to exist is fifty (50) years from and after the date of its incorporation.

Fifth: That the number of directors of said corporation shall be nine and that the names and residences of the directors who are appointed for the first year and who are to act until their successors are elected and qualify are as follows:

Sarah E. Kellogg, Van Nuys, Calif. ✓
Frances F. Bohlander, Van Nuys, Calif. ✓
Ida S. Bailey, Van Nuys, Calif. ✓
Estella L. Staley, Van Nuys, Calif. ✓
Ruth S. Keller, Van Nuys, Calif. ✓
Lucy Lee Trotter, Van Nuys, Calif. ✓
Edith Bliss, Van Nuys, Calif. ✓
Elizabeth K. Houghton, Van Nuys, Calif. ✓
Nina V. Streeter, Van Nuys, Calif. ✓

Sixth: That the said corporation has no capital stock.

Seventh: That pursuant to a call thereof, The Van Nuys Woman's Club, an association, was called to order at its regular meeting held on the 27th day of September, 1916, at its regular meeting place at 821 West G Street (W. J. Petit's) in Van Nuys, City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, State of California; and it was then and there resolved to incorporate the said Association.

that the resolution so to incorporate was adopted by a unanimous vote of all the members of said Association present, more than two-thirds of the total membership being present at said meeting; that an election was then and there duly called for the election of directors of said corporation to be held on October 2, 1916, at the High School Auditorium in Van Nuys, Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, California; that notice of said meeting in writing was mailed to each and every member of said Association on September 28, 1916; that a majority of the members of the said Association who were present at said meeting of October 2, 1916, voted at said election; that said election resulted in the choice of the above named directors of the corporation; that said directors received the unanimous vote of all members voting at said election.

In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 2d day of October, 1916.

Sarah E. Kellogg (Seal)
Frances T. Bohlander
Ida S. Bailey
Estella L. Staley
Ruth S. Keller
Lucy Lee Trotter
Edith Bliss
Nina V. Streeter
Elizabeth K. Houghton

State of California, County of Los Angeles, ss.:

On this 2d day of October in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixteen, A.D., before me, Lewis E. Bliss, a Notary Public in and for said County of Los Angeles, State of California, residing therein, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared Sarah E. Kellogg, Frances T. Bohlander, Ida S. Bailey, Estella L. Staley, Ruth S. Keller, Lucy Lee Trotter, Edith Bliss, Elizabeth K. Houghton and Nina V. Streeter, personally known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year in this certificate first above written.

Lewis E. Bliss,
Notary Public in and for the
County of Los Angeles,
State of California.

State of California, County of Los Angeles, ss.:

Sarah E. Kellogg and Ida S. Bailey, being first severally duly sworn depose and say, each for herself, and not one for the other, that she is the identical person hereinafter named as chairman and secretary respectively of the meeting herein referred to of the Association known as and called "The Van Nuys Woman's Club," and they, as such officers, make this affidavit and verification; that the statements made in the Article of Incorporation, of the Van Nuys Woman's Club, an Association, concerning the holding of the meeting of September 27, 1916, and October 2, 1916, are true; that Sarah E. Kellogg, one of the affiants herein, was the President of said Association and presided over said meeting, and Ida S. Bailey, one of the affiants herein, was Secretary of said Association, and acted as secretary at said meeting; that said affiants assumed their respective offices and continued to act as such officers throughout the said meeting; that the results of said meetings are as stated in said Articles of Incorporation.

Sarah E. Kellogg,
Presiding Officer

Ida S. Bailey,
Secretary.

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the said Sarah E. Kellogg, as Presiding Officer, and by the said Ida S. Bailey as such Secretary this 3d day of October, 1916.

Lewis E. Bliss
Notary Public in and for the
County of Los Angeles
State of California

The corporate charter, dated October 11, 1916, received from Frank C. Jordan, Secretary of State, State of California, and bearing No. 83086, is attached.

Once the decision had been made the members lost no time in pushing the project through, even though the treasury at the beginning of that club year, in September, 1916, contained only \$167.25, for these women had courage and vision, and faith in their ability to earn the necessary funds.

Minutes of board and club meetings do not record the business transactions that followed in much detail. But from records available it appears that Lots 21 and 22 on Virginia Street (now Sylvan Street) were acquired immediately after the corporation was organized. Architect Reg Harris (the son-in-law of Mrs. Kellogg) prepared plans, which were approved, and bids were called for. On December 11, 1916, four bids were submitted to the board, as follows:-- J. T. Coleman, \$4333.33; R. C. Miller, \$4300.00; J. H. Caldwell, \$4200.00, and Reg Harris, \$3600.00. The low bid was accepted, work started and the club was able to hold its annual meeting, April 25, 1917, in the new building.

At the laying of the cornerstone, March 16, 1917, guests included such civic leaders and developers of the young community as General Harrison Gray Otis, W. P. Whitsett, H. J. Whitley, and George Hanna. Songs by Mme. Ellen Beach Yaw, noted Southland singer of that day, added to the festivities of the occasion. An interesting commentary on the rural nature of the community of that time is the notation in the records that 50 hens were sent to the Newsboys Home, as requested by Mme. Yaw, in payment for her appearance on the program.

While there is mention in the minutes of a committee to assemble appropriate material to be included in the cornerstone box, there is no record of what actually was included other than a "copy of formal tender to the Van Nuys Woman's Club of Lot 21 on Virginia St. for the purpose of erecting a clubhouse." In a conversation with Mrs. Kellogg, she recalled that a copy of the Los Angeles Times and one of the Van Nuys News were included.

With an eye to business and the need for raising money to build and equip the clubhouse, the members had postcards made showing the building as it would look when completed, and \$17.15 worth were sold at the cornerstone laying ceremonies.

At this time, also, dues were raised to \$2.00 a year and an initiation fee of \$1.00 was established. Since the building would be available for use by other organizations, Mrs. Bailey was appointed the first rentals chairman, a position which she held for many years. Rates listed include the Episcopal Church, \$1.00 per Sunday during the summer, \$1.25 during the winter when a fire was needed; P.E.O. entertainment, \$5.00; private dances, \$10.00.

Pleased as the members were with their new building, it was not long before they realized that some changes would be required in order to make it even more satisfactory. In 1926, while Mrs. B. R. Holloway was president, a building fund was started, and the following year, under Mrs. E. A. Moehn's leadership, \$1400.00 was spent in remodeling, principal changes being made in the kitchen and stage. In 1934 plans were made to build a caretaker's cottage, to add a solarium to the building, and to make various other changes.

On April 2 of that year, the president, Mrs. J. W. Praiswater, and the officers were authorized to borrow \$4000.00 from the California Bank and the work proceeded with such dispatch that on June 14 the closing meeting of the year was held in the newly remodeled building.

The building committee's report made to the board on July 30, 1934, itemized the scope and cost of the work:

Caretaker's cottage	\$1120.00
Kitchen	315.00
Solarium	1210.92
Storage addition	152.70
Stage entrance	135.75
Maple flooring in auditorium	<u>286.00</u>
Total cost	\$3220.37

Within ten years the bank had been repaid and at the Birthday Luncheon, January 12, 1944, the mortgage was burned.

In the meantime, in November, 1926, the club decided to buy the adjoining lot (No. 23) for \$1600.00, and minutes of the meeting of January 26, 1927, carry the notation that the club owned three lots, all paid for. Later, December 12, 1945, another lot (No. 24) was purchased for \$2650.00 -- \$1150.00 cash, and the balance was paid off before the end of the club year. This was while Mrs. R. J. Zarn was president.

Since 1934, considerable money has been spent in keeping the buildings in good repair, and in repainting inside and out. In addition, the clubhouse was furnished for the comfort and convenience of the members, and the equipment and appointments have been renewed and replaced from time to time as needed. The kitchen, for example, is equipped with a large gas range, electric refrigerator, steam table, as well as utensils, dishes and linens to serve about 250 persons.

Among the "niceties" owned by the club are a Knabe grand piano acquired when Mrs. Steere was president, a silver tea and coffee service, lace tablecloths, floor lamps, and several very fine paintings.

The paintings include a floral water color by Isabel Scheidt, two landscapes by Puthoff, and an oil by Gray Bartlett. The Puthoffs were purchased through the efforts of Mrs. A. D. Hitchcock, who served as art chairman for some years, at a cost of \$750.00, and are now reputedly worth \$1000.00 each. Mrs. Rollin S. Henry and members of the art committee who served with her were responsible for the acquisition of the Bartlett painting which bears a plaque in her memory.

From time to time gifts have been made to the club by members, by friends, and by club sections. Unfortunately, however, the records are not complete, but among those recorded are an upright piano, gift of the Robert Morton organ factory in 1916; a large American flag donated by Mr. B. R. Holloway in 1926; planting and maintenance of the grounds by the garden section, and many other items.

As of the end of 1951, the club owns, free and clear of all encumbrances, the clubhouse, caretaker's cottage, and four lots at 14836 Sylvan Street, plus all the clubhouse furnishings, \$500.00 in U. S. Savings bonds and cash in the bank.

The legal description of the club property is as follows: the North 150 feet of Lots 21, 22, 23 and 24, Block 63, Tract 1200, City and County of Los Angeles.

Program and Activities

The primary purpose of the Van Nuys Woman's Club, as stated in its by-laws, is "advancement in all lines of general culture," and from the beginning, its members evinced interest in music, art, literature and drama. That they were also aware of world events is indicated by some of the discussion topics of the early years. For example, the sinking of the Titanic; the Panama Canal; the great coal strikes of 1912; the world-wide sweep of Socialism; forest conservation; industrial conditions in California; an evaluation of the newly established parcel post project; the Owens bill providing for a national health department; the tuberculin test for cattle; tariff problems.

These women were interested not only in increasing their knowledge, but in developing their talents as well. For the most part, the members themselves presented the programs which included, in addition to discussions of current social, economic and political problems, book and play reviews, music and readings. Fifteen minutes of each meeting were allotted for the consideration of pending legislation, and from time to time 10-minute drills in parliamentary procedure were on the agenda. In October, 1915, a Club Institute was held, with the members discussing such topics as: Why a club; different kinds of clubs; what a club should ask of its officers; what is the relation of a club to the community; some points on club ethics.

It was only occasionally during the early years that a lecturer was scheduled. Among these appear some well-known names such as Mabel Walker Willebrandt (1920) who was then District Chairman of Legislation; Amelia Johnson and Mab Copeland Lineman, both Los Angeles attorneys, and John Steven McGroarty. Later programs list such prominent lecturers and entertainers as Ruth Cornell Fuller, Mrs. Jack Vallely, Armine von Tempski, Kenyon J. Scudder, Louise P. Spoy, Lillian Burkhart Goldsmith, Alma Whitaker, Gilmor Brown and Dean Emory E. Olson. And on March 25, 1936, a musical program was furnished by Dana Carver Andrews.

Resolutions adopted from time to time reflect the matters that were of particular concern to women. One, in 1915, protested "the exploitation of our greatest national resource, beautiful women, girls and boys, in billboard advertising of certain brands of cigarettes and tobaccos." Another, in 1914, urged the abolition of prize fighting in California. Later, support of the League of Nations was advocated, and approval of the community property law. The growing importance of motion pictures was recognized in 1925 with the appointment of a motion picture chairman, and in 1933 a radio chairman was added.

The philanthropies and community projects which the club has supported throughout the years have been many and varied and it is impossible to record all of them here. The providing of direct help to needy families in the community, in the form of clothing, food, Christmas baskets and gifts, which was an important function for many years, gradually diminished and was finally discontinued entirely as public assistance increased and Community Chest agencies extended their operations. Year after year the members have given active assistance in fund raising drives for such agencies as the Community Chest, the Red Cross, the March of Dimes, Christmas Seals, and the Cancer Fund.

In 1949-1950 when a hospital was projected for the Van Nuys area, the club pledged \$1800.00 towards the building fund, and through the energetic leadership of the president, Mrs. Paul Bogendorfer, the entire amount was raised before the end of the year. Plans for the hospital have met delays, however, and at this writing the funds are impounded awaiting further developments.

When both the town and the club were young, the organization participated wholeheartedly in such activities of the growing community as the celebration of the completion of the Los Angeles aqueduct on November 5, 1913, and of the annexation of most of the Valley to the City of Los Angeles on May 22, 1915. In 1922 a contribution of \$35.00 was made toward the building fund for the Van Nuys American Legion Post, and in 1928 petitions were circulated "to bring the tree-

planting campaign to a glorious finish." Undoubtedly those trees are the ones that are now being sacrificed so ruthlessly to make way for subdivisions and street widening.

The club was instrumental in the establishment of a kindergarten and a health center in Van Nuys, and for years sponsored a Mothers' Educational Center which met monthly at the clubhouse and which was the forerunner of the Child Health Conferences now conducted by the Health Department of the City of Los Angeles.

A Child Welfare Section, active from 1916 to 1943, helped to provide clothing for needy children, did sewing for the Children's Hospital, paid for operations for children whose parents could not afford medical care, and paid the doctor who conducted the Mothers' Educational Center. Lucy Trotter Smead initiated this project, and later Isabel Mountford carried on as chairman for many years.

The 1924-25 Yearbook lists a series of 11 monthly lectures on child welfare and training given by Dr. Maud Wilde. Topics included, "Teaching the Child to Think Right Regarding Sex"; "The Psychology of Fear"; "The Handicapped Child"; "Youth in Conflict." In addition to the lectures, two hours were allotted for mental and physical examinations of babies. On December 14, 1927, which was Child Welfare Day at the club, the program consisted of a lecture by Dr. Wilde on "The Normal Child," with "live baby demonstration."

During World War I the club members were active in Red Cross work and pushed the sale of Liberty Bonds. Later work with veterans included entertaining 80 disabled soldiers from Sawtelle at a chicken dinner at the clubhouse on November 8, 1923. World War II found members engaging in Red Cross production, U.S.O. activities, Civilian Defense and War Bond sales.

Certainly, not the least of the club's contributions to the general welfare of the community has been its clubhouse which has provided, at a very nominal rent, a home for many local organizations and groups which otherwise would have had no adequate meeting place.

One of the earliest sections formed was a Music Section. Mostly it has consisted of a choral group which, since 1944, has been under the direction of Ethel Lytle Boothe, and has presented many fine programs for our own club and other organizations in the Los Angeles area.

The Garden Section is first mentioned in the yearbook for 1926-1927. This has grown to be the largest and most active section of the club and meets regularly, the year around, on the first Wednesday of each month. Many members have studied flower arrangements and have become so proficient that they have won awards and honors at flower shows and exhibits in Southern California. The flower show which the section sponsors annually is one of the outstanding events of the club year.

A Bible Section, which meets once a month, was started in 1929, and features inspirational talks and interpretations of Bible passages by local representatives of the various faiths and denominations.

Members of the Drama Section, which has been active periodically since the early years, have presented plays and entertainment at club meetings in many instances with almost professional skill.

While legislation has always had a prominent place in club activities, it was not until 1947-1948 that a legislation section was established, with Mrs. R. J. Zarn as the first chairman, which permitted members to discuss matters of legislative interest in more detail than was possible at regular club meetings.

Close co-operation has been maintained with the schools in the community and one meeting each year is set aside as education day, at which time the principals of the Van Nuys Elementary School, the High School and, more recently, the Junior High School, are honored guests. On occasion, also, boys and girls who distinguish themselves in some particular study or activity are given recognition by the club. Since 1933 an award of \$10.00 has been given each semester to the boy or girl selected by the High School as the outstanding English student.

During the presidency of Mrs. E. A. Moehn a junior auxiliary was formed and met for the first time on January 17, 1927. It was a thriving organization for many years and several of its members graduated to active participation in the parent club and in various other organizations. During World War II, however, pressure of other interests resulted in its discontinuance.

In 1944 when the shortage of nurses was acute, the club joined with other federated clubs in efforts to promote interest in this profession and as an inducement one or two girls have each year been provided with a scholarship, originally \$50.00 but now increased to \$75.00 each, to help cover initial expenses. Mrs. Charles I. Thacker has had charge of this activity since its inception.

From time to time, in addition to the yearbook, a bulletin has been issued by the club, and this practice has been revived by Mrs. I. G. Rainey for the year 1951-1952. Some of the most recent bulletins, as well as the few that are available from past years, are included in this record.

Finances and Membership

It is no accident that the club is in sound financial condition. Rather it is a tribute to the hard work, the devotion, and the good business sense of its members.

Although the dues have been raised gradually from \$1.00 a year to \$10.00, and the initiation fee from \$1.00 to \$5.00, they have never supplied sufficient income.

Many ways of raising money were tried and one of the most successful was the serving of luncheons and dinners for various local organizations. This involved hard work, but the members felt that the financial returns, plus the knowledge that they were supplying a much needed community service, was sufficient reward.

A nostalgic sigh for "the good old days" is aroused by a notation that \$100.00 was cleared at a dinner served in October, 1916, for which a charge of 35¢ a plate was made. That there were disappointments, too, is indicated by another notation that at a dinner served at the Masonic Hall five dozen plates, cups and saucers mysteriously disappeared. No trace was ever found of them and the club had to foot the bill which greatly reduced the profit for that event.

Since about 1945, because of the difficulties of rationing, the increasing cost of food, and the establishment of numerous restaurants and caterers in the area, this method of fund-raising has been discontinued.

Card parties, teas, fashion shows, rummage sales and raffles are some of the devices which have been and are still being used to build up the treasury. To pay for the grand piano, for example, a hope chest was raffled off. A cookbook was compiled containing the favorite recipes of many of the members, and copies were sold at \$1.00 each. Date of its publication is not given, but it appears to have been in the late 1920's. Because the advertisements it contains are a reflection of the business establishments in the community at the time, and for its historical

significance in other ways, a copy of this cookbook is included in this record.

Rentals have always been a good source of revenue but much of this money has been required to cover costs of maintenance, repairs, remodeling and improvements.

Many times when funds were low the members wielded brooms and mops, and paint brushes, too, in order to keep the buildings in good condition, while the women of the garden section have done their share with rakes and shovels, wheelbarrows and hoes, to beautify the grounds, all of which has helped to keep down the cost of operation.

The luncheons served on regular meeting days have never been intended as a money-raising scheme, as evidenced by the fact that until this year, 1951-1952, the price has been held to 50¢. Rising prices, however, have now forced an increase to 65¢. Under the direction of a general chairman a committee of members is selected to serve the luncheon for each meeting -- except special occasions -- and it is seldom that a member is required to serve on the luncheon committee more than once each year.

Membership, which has always been open "to all women of Van Nuys and vicinity," started with 16 and reached a peak of about 300 during the years 1945-1947, but for the most part has held fairly steady at around 250.

VAN NUYS WOMAN'S CLUB HISTORY

1952 - 1992

In July 1952 the committee reported that rentals were booked through 1953. An air conditioner was bought, the bylaws were revised. Two camellia bushes were bought. They had a drama group who presented several plays. A fiesta was held in May and a dinner dance took place at the San Fernando Country Club.

At the May meeting reports were given on Indian Affairs, Youth Conservation, Art, Education, Book Reviews, Bible Study, Handicrafts, History and Landmarks, Garden Section and Flower Show, Sewing, Welfare and Philanthropies.

It was in 1953 that they voted to recognize Charter Day at a regular meeting during the year. Forty-one new members were installed during the year. The caretaker had a car allowance of 50¢ a week.

In 1954 plans were made for an addition to the caretaker's cottage at an approximate cost of \$1,000. Later this cottage room was denied and a closet was substituted.

In March at a Legislative Section monthly meeting a monorail system was discussed. The solarium was redecorated. It was used for many meetings and listed separately in the rentals book.

In 1955 it was voted to hire an accountant to make Treasurer's quarterly reports and annual reports required by law. A Junior Club was being organized outside the Van Nuys Woman's Club which wanted to be sponsored by our Club. It was turned down. Dinner dances in the Spring and Fall and on New Year's Eve were social highlights of the club year. It was voted to spend \$1,500 modernizing the kitchen.

In September 1955 a committee was formed to look into the sale of property at the rear of the clubhouse. (No further mention was found in subsequent minutes.) A new roof costing \$500 was approved. In October there was a baby shower at Board meeting for two new board member mothers. Congressman Holt presented the club with a flag that had flown over the national capitol.

The first yearbook was issued for the club year 1915-1916, when Mrs. S. O. Houghton, Jr., was president. It lists officers, committee chairmen and members, program, constitution and by-laws, and membership roster of 115 names.

From that time on yearbooks were issued annually, except for the years 1918-1919 and 1919-1920, and a copy of each yearbook is included in this record.

A review of the yearbooks indicates that there has been an active literature section since 1918, but book reviews were among the most popular programs from the beginning. Minutes of the meeting of September 24, 1913, record that Mrs. S. O. Houghton, Jr., presented to the club "the first book for the nucleus of a library." This was, "The Fate of the Donner Party," written by Mrs. Eliza P. Donner Houghton, mother-in-law of Mrs. Houghton. It was planned that each book purchased by the club for review was to be added to the library from which members could borrow books without charge for a two-week period, with a fine of 10¢ per day for those retained longer. Mrs. Martha Calhoun was appointed librarian and the choice of books to be reviewed was assigned to Mrs. Houghton. What became of the books or the project is not recorded.

During the two years that Mrs. R. J. Zarn was president, 1944-1946, the literature section was enlarged by permitting non-members to attend upon payment of a subscription fee of \$5.00 a year. Mrs. Wilmore Marcus was chairman of this project, which was known as the Friday Morning Literature Club, and met on the first Friday of the month.

The Art Section is first mentioned in the 1917-1918 yearbook. It has been active in acquiring works of art for the club and for many years has sponsored monthly art exhibits in the clubhouse featuring local and regional artists. A scroll listing sponsors of an Art Salon for the Van Nuys Woman's Club in 1924 is included in the records. Early club programs on art subjects include: November 22, 1920, a talk on ceramics; December 24, 1921, an Oriental art exhibit; October 28, 1927, an art evening.

In March 1956 the Van Nuys Woman's Club received the "Award of the Month" from the Valley Volunteers Bureau. It was also in March 1956 that the organizational meeting of the Cahuenga District was held in Canoga Park.

Because parking was becoming a serious problem, the Club began considering having a parking lot on the clubhouse grounds. It was moved to have lots 23 and 24 so converted. A loan was taken out from the bank for \$1,500 to accomplish this. By October 1956 we had five members on the District Executive Board. In November is the first mention of the "Friendship Fantasy" fashion show - tickets \$3.85!

Margaret Wuest, who had been leading the opening patriotic song for many years, now became chairman of the Garden Section.

In December the property had been surveyed and the parking lot started. Estimated cost \$3,477 - \$1,500 borrowed as approved. In December 1956 Mrs. Lucy Trotter Smead, who was president 1912-1914, died.

By May 1957 membership was up to 233.

(Minutes missing until 1963.)

In July 1963 there was talk again of a Junior Club. Ways and Means had a profit of \$510 on sale of their cookbook. New steps and a walk in front of the clubhouse were added.

In February 1964 a letter protesting pay T.V. and obscene literature on newstands was sent to the proper authorities. Improvements included six new card tables given by the Garden Section. Mrs. Martha Bierkamp was named "Poet Laureate". This year (1964) the Club had to borrow \$750 from the bank for summer running expenses.

Through many years Francine Lane is thanked for corsages and flower arrangements at almost all meetings and bridge luncheons. She was very active in the Legislative Section.

In 1965 there were 16 reports given by chairmen at the May meeting with the balance to be given at the next meeting. At the first May meeting a report of real and personal property and the condition thereof was presented.

In 1966 "a penny for each year of one's life" was collected at the January birthday party. The Executive Board requested the authority to file a claim in Small Claims Court to collect \$40 owed for clubhouse rent.

One shipment to the Puma Indians contained "40 dressed dolls, 20 cartons of clothing, candies, toys, coloring books and crayons". There were several shipments sent each year.

In May 1966 the permanent "non-tarnish" trophy was bought for \$40. This trophy is on display at Van Nuys High School and the names of the yearly winners added, a tradition which we continue. It was at this period that first names began to appear in the minutes replacing the traditional "Mrs. Jack Black".

In October 1966 a "Renewal in Perpetuity" of our Incorporation was recorded. (This formerly was a 50 year maximum.) In December 1966 another 63 dolls and 453 lbs. of clothing were sent to the Puma Indians.

In January 1967 the "Foothill Funsters" of the Garden Club entertained at the bi-monthly luncheon. In May 1967 it was announced there were 158 members, 21 honorary members, and an average luncheon attendance of 85. Four Federation workshops were held at our Club with luncheons provided as a Ways and Means project.

The Press Chairman announced that pictures and a notice would be in the upcoming issue of the Times announcing the Fashion Show. (Paper toilet seat covers were installed in both restrooms!) A motion regarding the use of public schools by "questionable propaganda speakers" was passed.

In December 1967 letters were sent to District supporting Dorothea Neel for President of the Sierra Cahuenga District.

In January 1968 there was a card party at the Mitchell Mortuary - \$1 per member going as a group. Post cards were sent to senators protesting the change of holidays to Mondays instead of their "natural and regular days". In January 1968 at the Legislative meeting the speaker discussed Rapid Transit and showed slides of the project.

In February the director of "Stage Crew for the San Fernando Valley" spoke of his work with and understanding "hippies". He has 250 members so far and hoped for 10,000 by summer!

Again all district workshops were held at our club. Dorothea Neel was elected President of Sierra Cahuenga District.

Our club had 174 members (67-68) and 155 (68-69). Again a Junior Club is being discussed. On September 6, 1968 it was moved and carried to form a Junior Club. Not much interest followed. Stair rails were installed from stage to floor.

In 1969 monthly displays by local artists continued. There was a motion to ask for better lighting for our streets. "911" was now nationally recognized as the emergency number. Smog control was a topic for discussion at the June meeting. We got our club name on a plaque at Valley Presbyterian Hospital for our donation. The Indian Welfare group was active and we were sending donations. Olive View continued to receive our support. There was a motion to object to "topless and bottomless so-called entertainment at clubs and bars".

In 1970 an ESO group was formed. Easter lillies were collected for Easter services at the Hollywood Bowl. There was a motion to save the Condors. (Beward of N.O.W. - definitely a communistic organization.)

By 1971 the Refrigerator Fund was \$236. Regular funds were depleted and it was voted to cut scholarship amounts in half and to suspend philanthropies for the remainder of the year. There would be no week's paid vacation for the caretakers and the Board was authorized to borrow \$1,000 from the bank. Eleven members loaned the club \$100 each in June.

It was announced that half the District Board meetings and the Art Festival next year would be held at the Van Nuys Woman's Club. In June there was a surprise at the T.V. show outing -- Leone Traurig was introduced as an "opera star of some note" and she sang a solo for the audience.

171 - In June a motion finally came to purchase a 20 cu. ft. refrigerator at \$349.53 including Tan and Green stamps. It was recorded that this was done the same day. In October one half the \$1100 loaned by members was paid back to the names drawn and the final half was paid in November. The silver service was sold for \$250.

In December 1971 a vote was taken to apply for a \$4,000 loan from the Small Business Agency to repair earthquake damage to the club.

In December of 1971 the new speaker system, donated by Martha Bierkamp, was dedicated, and the \$4,000 loan from the Small Business Agency was voted on and approved. The Fashion Fiesta was cancelled for lack of help and the Bible Section was slowing down. The Club continued to support the Indian Center.

In January of 1972 a trip to Descanso Gardens would be cancelled if it rained as the roads would be too hazardous. Dorothea Neel called the attention of the membership to an article in the Los Angeles Times regarding a new movement in the southland of retired people objecting to the title "Senior Citizens"--they prefer Senior Power"!--and there were Senior Power buttons for their group. Club members were asked to wear Prisoner of War bracelets. The Chinese Woman's Club invited the members to tea.

On April 12, 1972 Mrs. G. W. Dickey, the only living charter member was a guest on Past President's Day.

The "Dirty Bookstore" and pornography were topics for discussion and letters were written to the store owner and the Attorney General. A two-day seminar for law enforcement agencies state-wide was held.

Scandinavian Day was celebrated in April with costumes, decorations, food, and a program elaborating on the theme. There were 40 guests that day. It was voted to dispense with corsages, except for very special occasions, to save money. Ironically Francine Lane passed away May 16, 1972. She had been the corsage maker for many, many years.

In May 1972 it was voted to present an award and plaque to "an outstanding policewoman" and make this an annual award. In October "The Dirty Book Store is gone!" was announced at the meeting.

Two hundred pounds of clothing were donated to the Indian Center in January 1973. It was reported that stories sent to the local press were not being printed as written. Up to this date the press had been generous to the Club. The annual reports of Club chairmen were scheduled for four meetings--14 in all. Dorothea Neel was endorsed for State Vice President. In September 1973 it was decided to have luncheons catered but Club members were to assist in serving.

In February 1974 it was reported Mrs. White is back (Ena Williamson)! It was a perfect solution to the caretaker situation. At this time it was suggested changing the meeting format: a shorter

business meeting, perhaps one meeting a month, and perhaps bringing a sandwich from home.

It was noted that material sent to the Green Sheet was not being published. A policewoman award was presented. In August a table inherited by the will of Mrs. Nellie Hanley was now in the clubhouse. A new gas stove was authorized to be purchased--12 burner and dual ovens--for \$950.

Mrs. Dickey (charter member) attended the April 1975 Presidents' Day. That same month \$1,000 was withdrawn from the Reserve Fund. It was noted there were clean-up problems after some rentals of the clubhouse, and there continued to be poor cooperation by newspapers on articles sent in.

In July 1975 Ena White (Williamson) was made an honorary member. Later that year \$1,000 was put back into savings, and letters were sent to the Vice Squad protesting a massage parlor in Van Nuys, and there was a resolution supporting Granada Hills Woman's Club regarding pornographic newspapers.

In January 1976 there were more complaints about lack of publicity, which resulted in better publicity later. The boutique table at Garden Section was started in March 1976. "Community Concerts" were recommended to members. The Legislative Committee was active sending letters to Washington recommending veto of a bill to give government responsibility rather than parents on "how children are raised". It was moved to keep the State Building on the east side of Van Nuys Blvd. Century awards (100 books read) from ESO were earned by Alma Stark and Helen Crippen.

Letters were read in April 1976 from Senator Tunney and Congressman Goldwater in answer to our letters regarding "Child-Family Service Act of 1975" and a letter came also from Alan Cranston. Card parties continued to be well attended, the evaporative cooler was replaced, and repairs to the solarium amounting to \$2,150 were made during the year.

There was a first mention of graffiti removal from the parking lot, and the Club recommended that the Hollywood-Burbank Airport be saved. The Federation President urged we "use good judgement in voting in new members--no discrimination regarding race, color, creed, or sex--exceptions would affect our tax exempt status."

There was a service for seniors report in January 1977 outlining

mini-bus service, and legal and income tax services available. Work was completed on the solarium. "Cherry-Cherry" was retained as accountants to audit our books and compile end of year reports. New flag standards were purchased in March 1977, and in April a lawn mower was purchased for \$200. It was reported that the cost of entertainment had gone up drastically, but the Club would try to continue its high standards.

It was proposed that a donation be made to the Police Widows Fund instead of giving a plaque to the Outstanding Woman Officer. It was urged that high standards be maintained for programs and "in our dress" suggesting that long dresses be worn for installation. Postscripts was being formed compiled of past presidents of Womans' Clubs, PTA, DAR, etc.

The president followed up on a press notice that the City Planning Department was looking for a place to rent. On January 1, 1978 a lease was drawn up on a yearly basis specifying two Thursdays, and all Mondays and Fridays of each month and ten other meetings for \$400 a month.

Long dresses were to be worn by the Board at the Opening Tea. On October 7, 1977 the Historic Building Committee headed by Richard Meyer, a Van Nuys lawyer, recommended our clubhouse be preserved by the Cultural Heritage Society. At the November Board meeting it was noted that many clubs in the area have lost their clubhouses, and it was remarked that we were lucky to have our clubhouse paid for and have rentals coming in! In November 1977 when plumbers were digging to fix pipes they found the plaque honoring Charter Member Ida Bailey. It was put on display at our front door.

Although there were heavy rains in January 1978, the clubhouse did not suffer any leaks, for which the members were very thankful. A Federal IRS report showed that we are now tax exempt. Much of the silver and sharp knives had disappeared from the kitchen. The president reported it would cost at least \$30 a sq. ft. to replace our clubhouse. In May it was discussed charging \$1 for the yearbook due to tight finances. September 1 the Board moved to accept the city recommendation to declare our property a Historical Cultural Monument. A letter was received in November from the Cultural Heritage Board accepting the clubhouse as Monument #201. Charter member Lorraine Dickey died in October 1978.

The theft of a silver urn, etc. was reported (\$937 from insur-

ance); further report of more items stolen (\$1039 from insurance). The Garden Club gave generous donations at Christmas for many years, for instance, 100 cup coffee urns, etc.

In January 1979 the Club finally received good publicity for its Birthday Party. A former custodian filed an appeal with the Office of Appeals--appeal denied. A letter of protest regarding target practice in the Sepulveda Dam area was sent. It was noted that Irving Berlin wrote "God Bless America" and gave all income from it to the Boy Scouts of America.

In June 1979 \$2,000 was given anonymously by a member for Scholarship. The money was invested and this fund still is at \$2,000. There was another caretaker problem, and a letter was sent to the couple to vacate in 7 days. A donor group offered to paint the entire inside of the clubhouse in lieu of paying rent for six months. The Club was rented almost every night! Jack and Norma were the caterers now.

The floors were refinished in January 1980 at a cost of \$1,083. Karen Hogan was honored by Mayor Bradley in May for her 35 years of service. During the remainder of 1980 there was a motion to buy folding doors for the foyer, an upright piano was given to the Mental Health Clinic, rentals were bringing in much more money at this time with maintenance averaging \$500 a month, and there were more cottage renter problems.

1981 saw bids for new drapes and curtains at \$5,817 and \$3,105; the return of hostages (a historic week!); Seeing Eye Dog sponsored for \$750; the post office announced intentions to submit to Congress a bill for a nine digit zip code and members were urged to prevent it; total receipts for March were \$5,494, checking balance \$8,892; the marker in front of the clubhouse was given by Native Daughters in May; cost of painting the outside of clubhouse and cottage and lattice work was \$5,641; paid vacation was voted for Norma and Jack with the Club to pay for their replacement for two weeks; monthly card parties continued.

Tiny Eaton was recognized January 13, 1982, and it was the Club's 70th birthday. There was a luncheon held in March with 125 persons in attendance for an International Seeing Eye Dog project. The parking lot was resurfaced at a cost of \$8,949 (13,632 sq. ft.). Awards were

given by the Sierra Cahuenga District, State and California Federation of Womans' Clubs to mark our 70th year. Bridge classes were held during the summer of 1982, realizing a profit of \$340, and by-laws were revised. Later in the year an additional \$250 was donated for a Seeing Eye Dog, and floodlights were installed in the parking lot at a cost of \$500.

Publicity was still a problem in 1983, and it was decided not to send articles to the Los Angeles Times although the Daily News did print an article. Rentals were \$2,825 for the month of February. The Club submitted a petition against a Penny Arcade in Sherman Oaks. Cost of luncheons was increased from \$3 to \$4 with the \$1 additional coming from the club treasury maintenance account! The practice of having a "guest artist of the month" was voted out and a display of the club's own art work was substituted permanently.

1983 - A lectern/speaker system was approved (\$675); the treasury balance was very healthy at \$8,786 plus savings of \$11,000; the clubhouse interior was painted (\$1,250); the meeting the day before Thanksgiving was deleted; evaporative cooler replaced (\$750). All-Safe Electric Co.'s bid for installation of new lighting with dropped ceiling was \$5,989). July rentals were \$3,230, and the Club was down to 81 members. The cottage roof was replaced (\$900); the Sierra Cahuenga District had 32 clubs (now 29); and it was agreed to change the bylaws and delete nomination ballots for club officers.

Historical information was given at the 71st birthday meeting in January 1984. The Club was founded April 3, 1912, and at that time Van Nuys Blvd. was known as Sherman Way and Sylvan Street was Virginia Street, the Club cornerstone being laid March 16, 1917. A Dissolution Clause was added to the bylaws in April, which was an IRS requirement (Section 501 (c) (3) of Internal Revenue Code.

The 1983-84 year's rentals were \$33,254; major repairs \$10,307; receipts \$52,008; disbursements \$9,212; leaving a balance 6-1-83 of \$7,946.26. Of 28 press releases submitted, 16 were printed. Garden Club discontinued programs, however meetings and cards were continued. Clothes for newborns at Olive View were requested. Bernardi Center started its Day Care for Alzheimers patients. The Club supported this with a \$360 donation which took care of one person five days a week for six months.

In 1985 repairs and lighting improvements amounted to \$2,350. Favors were supplied for trays served by Meals on Wheels. Bears were made and donated to Postscripts.

(Minutes from March 1985 to July 1987 are missing.)

June 1987 receipts were \$9468 with a starting balance of \$5,870. \$4,000 was put into savings leaving a \$6,349 ending balance. The maintenance account was now \$12,335, and June rentals \$4,005. It was planned to have the ceiling insulated. The grand piano was currently valued at \$2,000 but needed \$3,000 in repairs. The club turned down a church who wanted to rent the building for two services a week at \$600 a month. The floor in the foyer was replaced. Don Snyder was the Opening Tea artist to start our 75th year.

The Garden Club was busy with placemats for Meals on Wheels and knitting for Olive View. December 1987 rentals were \$4,375. It was decided to repair the mechanical parts of the piano and get a cover and lock for it at a cost of \$2,000 plus \$200 for the lock and cover, work to begin in June since it was necessary to remove the piano from the clubhouse for approximately a month.

There was a rosy financial picture in January 1988--\$14,231 balance and \$23,614 in savings; however in March there was the first report of rentals being down. Procedure books for each office were to be submitted to the president by May 1. Luncheons were subsidized by 50¢, and bridge action was down to 4 tables. Receipts for 1987-88 were \$64,067 leaving a \$6,260 balance. Thursday card parties were discontinued.

The piano was delivered from repairs just in time for the Opening Tea on October 12th. Chains were installed on the parking lot to keep unauthorized vehicles out, and barbed wire was installed on the fence.

In 1989 "Children of the Night" was accepted as a club project. \$2,600 was approved for interior painting of the clubhouse; \$800 for refinishing the stage floor, and \$3,000 for new front doors, and earthquake damage to the club was repaired.

Jane Perica was endorsed for President of the Sierra Cahuenga District for 1990-1992. Membership in January 1990 was down to 74 members. The parking lot was repaved and restripped at a cost of \$1,655. It was moved that all Past Presidents' books be returned to the Club (this has not been done as of April 1992). Dorothea Neel was honored for 50 years as a member of Van Nuys Woman's Club.

The handicapped ramp was repaired (\$250); and yearly receipts as of June 1990 were \$71,774, disbursements \$77,467; leaving a balance of \$4,123. In December the clubhouse was vandalized by uninvited guests at a wedding reception.

In January 1991 a letter was received from a realtor interested in purchasing the club property, but we were not interested at the time. 1991 was the year of the drought, and we were urged to conserve water. Third grade pupils at Sylvan Park School entertained the President and Vice President at tea. A "loan cupboard" was started for health items which could be borrowed without charge by our members.

By August of 1991 the area around the clubhouse had become very dangerous due to drugs and gangs, a situation which negatively affected our rental income. A "Phone-Tree" committee was formed to rapidly inform members of news or events between meetings. Quincenaras (birthday celebrations for fifteen-year old Mexican girls) would be booked reluctantly as other sources of rentals were drying up.

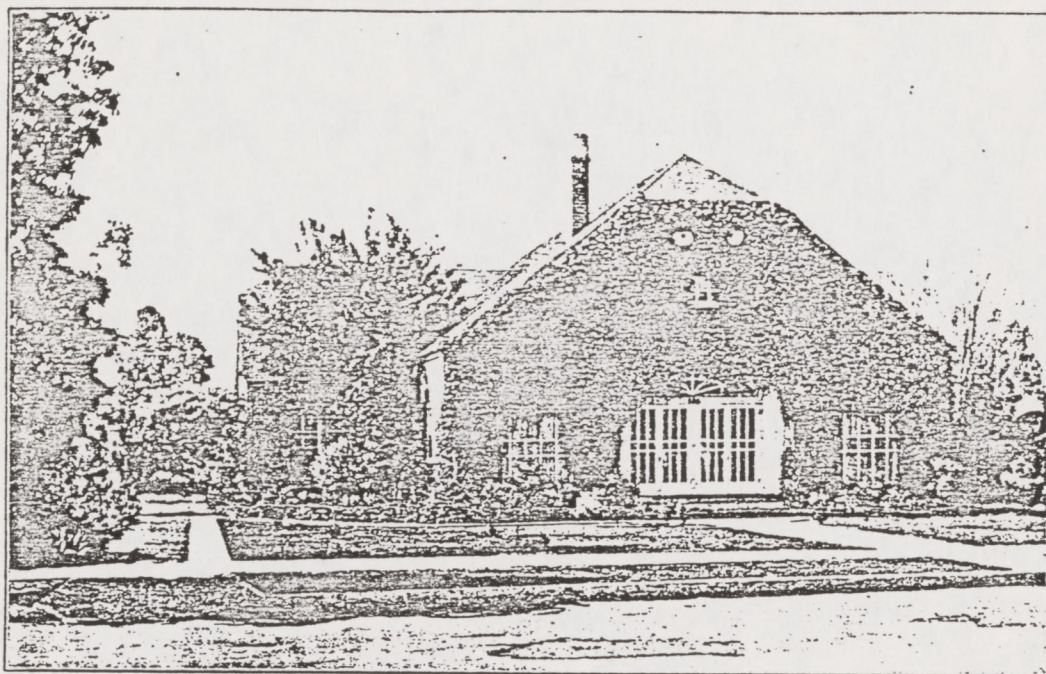
Our Opening Tea in October 1991 was well attended by District Officers, Past Presidents, members and their guests. We had a speaker from one of our philanthropies, "Children of the Night", who brought us up-to-date with the progress of the transformation of the old Van Nuys Post Office into a building dedicated to finding a new lifestyle for these young people.

In November our own Melody Carver gave us an insight into "California History--A Window to the Past". In December we had a most successful boutique and bake sale with a program of Christmas music. Our afghan raffle added to our Ways and Means fund.

The new year meetings were well attended, and with the exception of our rained out first Pot Luck Luncheon in February went as planned. An additional Bake Sale in April brought in \$207 to add to our income. Rentals remain precarious, but the caretaker situation is under control.

The new drapes were installed in May in readiness for our 80th Birthday and Charter Day when we recognize and honor our Past Presidents.

We look to the future with some apprehension but also with hope for continued success.



Van Nuys Women's Club House, Van Nuys, Calif.

Van Nuys the Ideal Home City

By ESTELLE W. MOEHN,
President, Van Nuys Woman's Club

VAN NUYS, the physical center of this marvelous San Fernando Valley, within the city limits of Los Angeles, yet far enough from the crush and turmoil of the city, is in many ways the ideal home town. Here are all the attractions of the city, but with the charm and beauty of a very busy suburb, all within a few minutes' drive of Hollywood, Beverly Hills, the charming old Mission of San Fernando, or the great metropolis of Los Angeles. Here the tree-lined streets form vistas through which one glimpses the everlasting hills, on the south, the Santa Monicas, on the north and east the Verdugo hills. The attractive homes are set on lawns, wide enough to secure privacy and space, brilliant with many colored flowers and landscaped pleasingly. The schools, churches, shops and theaters are adequate for all needs. Truly here is an ideal home-site!

Best of all, we think, is the spirit of friendliness and welcome everywhere evident and which we feel, is typified by your Woman's Club. The Van Nuys Woman's Club began sixteen years ago as a mission study-class, with about thirty members, meeting from house to house. Today it owns its own well furnished clubhouse, free of debt, has a membership of over three hundred members, as well as a Junior Auxiliary of forty-five young women.

The picture shown is that of the present clubhouse, which is already outgrown, and which will be remodeled with an additional

auditorium, erected on the adjoining lot to care for our rapidly increasing membership. The club is active along all cultural, benevolent and civic-betterment lines, having for its major project the further planting of all new streets with shade trees, the proper care of lawns and parking and co-operation in all park and playground matters. The varied interests and tastes of the members are well served by the variety of sections; Music, specializing in opera reading; Arts and Crafts, specializing on Browning the past year; California History and Landmarks; Legislation, the study of business law; Home Economics; Drama, with gymnasium work, and the Garden Section. The members of this section are very enthusiastic, as the possibilities for the home garden are here limitless. This was evidenced by the very successful flower show held here in June, when our amateur gardeners vied with the commercial growers in putting on a really wonderful display of gladioli, roses, iris, etc., proving that conditions here are especially advantageous for the growing of bulbs. The meetings of this section are held in the beautiful gardens of the members.

The club maintains a membership in the Chamber of Commerce, its representative being a director of the same; an annual scholarship prize for the High School, and a very active social service department with monthly clinics for the children of the community and an educational course for young mothers.

VAN NUYS CELEBRATES ITS SILVER ANNIVERSARY (1937)

VAN NUYS WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS
HAVE MADE SPLENDID CONTRIBUTION
TO CIVIC PROGRESS

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Women's clubs began a half century ago as self-cultural bodies, dedicated to a program of service to home, community and nation. There are millions of club women in America, and thousands of clubs, the scope and character of their work presenting a perpetual challenge. As Alice Ames Winter says, club life is becoming a tremendous business because it represents a tremendous force.

Of the four major women's clubs in the Van Nuys district, the Van Nuys Woman's club is pioneer. Founded in 1912, it was the first woman's club in the San Fernando Valley, first here to affiliate with the California Federation, and from the beginning a guiding light for others who followed.

The Sherman Oaks Woman's Club organized in 1927, the Van Nuys Club Juniors a year later, and then in 1930 the Van Nuys Business and Professional Women's Club.

VAN NUYS WOMAN'S CLUB

Believing that the ideal club is one that is neither all a study or all a working club, founders of the early Mission Study Class of 1912 reorganized to form the VAN NUYS WOMAN'S CLUB with 32 charter members, and Mrs Howard Trotter, first president. They met in members homes for several seasons and devoted their

interest largely to cultural studies and to community service, maintaining a temporary library in the school until a city branch could be established.

The gift of a lot on Sylvan street by Mrs. Ida Bailey, life member and her financial assistance in the purchase of adjoining property launched the club on a building program in 1916. In 1928 the sum of \$1400. was allocated from the treasury for the erection of a stage and remodeling. Further improvements were made in 1934 and 1935 when rooms were redecorated and enlarged, a solarium and caretakers' bungalow built, and grounds landscaped.

Today, the club house, a neat white frame Californiatype building, stands beneath its green ivy blanket in a setting typical of this delightful Valley. Gay flower borders parade down the pathways to the rose garden, a lily pool and a plot of native California flowers and shrubs.

The present membership of the club exceeds 200 and there are thirty active departments covering a wide scope of work in philanthropy, education, welfare, arts, history, the home and civic relations.

The 1935-36 officers are: Mrs. William J. Murray, president; Mrs. L. A. Mountford, vice-president; Mrs. Walter Crippen, second vice-president; Mrs. Stanley P. Twomey, recording secretary; Mrs. James Wibray, financial secretary; Mrs. Samuel J. Woody, treasurer; Mrs. John W. Praiswater, Federation secretary; Mrs. Charles E. Lane, Mrs. Charles Canby, Mrs. Mary Doty, directors.

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